

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the non-final Office Action mailed on September 2, 2008. Claims 1-14 are pending in the application with Claims 1 and 9 being in independent form. By the present amendment, Claims 1, 5, 9, 10 and 14 have been amended and Claim 15 has been added. No new matter or issues are believed to be introduced by the amendments. The amendments were made to clarify Applicants' claimed subject matter and not for patentability purposes.

The Office Action rejects Claims 1-3 and 9-10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Saito et al. EP 0715241 A2 ("Saito") in view of Gehring U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/00116606 ("Gehring"); Claims 4-8 and 13-14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Saito in view of Gehring and further in view of Relander U.S. Patent Application Publication 2002/0066012 A1 ("Relander"); and Claims 4 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. U.S.C. §103(a) over Saito in view of Gehring and further in view of Perlman U.S Patent Application Publication 2002/0184506 ("Perlman").

Applicants' independent Claims 1 and 9 have been amended to clarify Applicants' claimed subject matter as described by Applicants' specification in conjunction with Figures 2-4.

Saito, in contrast to the recitations of Applicants' claims, is directed to a data copyright management system which decrypts encrypted data for displaying and processing and re-encrypts the decrypted data for storing, copying, or transferring. Saito as acknowledged by the Examiner does not disclose or suggest features originally recited by Applicants' independent Claims 1 and 9. Further, Saito does not disclose or suggest the newly added claim language to Applicants' independent Claims 1 and 9, such as, for example, forwarding an encryption key corresponding to the decryption key along a data path.

Gehring does not cure the deficiencies of Saito. Gehring, in contrast to the recitations of Applicants' claims, is directed to an encryption and decryption system for a multi-node network. Messages from a source node to a destination node are passed through a forwarding node, which decrypts the incoming message from the source node without prior determination of the ultimate destination of the message. The forwarding node then unconditionally re-encrypts the outgoing or forwarded message for transmission to the destination node.

As with Saito, Gehring also does not disclose or suggest the newly added claim language to Applicants' independent Claims 1 and 9, such as, for example, forwarding an encryption key corresponding to the decryption key along a data path. In particular, neither Saito nor Gehring disclose or suggest "decrypting the signal by a decryption module using a decryption key (CW) corresponding to the encryption key; transmitting the decrypted signal along a first data path; receiving the decrypted signal by a processor positioned along the first data path and processing the decrypted signal by the processor; forwarding the encryption key corresponding to the decryption key (CW) along a second data path independent of the first data path; converging the first and second data paths at an encryption module; re-encrypting the processed signal using the encryption key; and storing the re-encrypted signal," as recited by Applicants' independent Claim 1 and similarly recited by Applicants' independent Claim 9. (Emphasis added)

Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) with respect to independent Claims 1 and 9 and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

Dependent Claims 2-8 and 10-15, which includes new dependent Claim 15, are allowable over the prior art of record for at least the same reasons presented above for the patentability of independent Claims 1 and 9. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C.

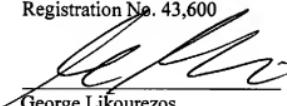
§103(a) with respect to dependent Claims 2-8 and 10-15 over Saito, Gehring, Relander and Perlman and allowance thereof are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims presently pending in the application, namely, Claims 1-15, are believed to be in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner should have any questions concerning this communication or feels that an interview would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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